

CLAIMS

1. A multiple chambered mattress for promoting safe and healthy sleep for infants comprising:

(a) a pair of end sections;

5 (b) a central section affixed to and positioned between said end sections, said central section having an upper life cradle affixed to and located above a lower safety cradle;

10 (c) said life cradle being separately inflatable so as to provide a variably sized telescoping well for supporting an infant; and

(d) said safety cradle being separately inflatable and containing a firm resilient material element so as to support an infant in the event of unwanted cradle deflation.

15 2. The infant mattress of Claim 1 wherein said end sections and life cradle and safety cradle are separately air inflatable, said end and central sections are arrayed along a longitudinal axis passing serially through the mid sections of a first of said end sections and through said central section then through a second of said end sections.

3. The infant mattress of Claim 2 wherein said telescoping well is elliptical in horizontal cross section with its semi-major axis longitudinally oriented.

4. The infant mattress of Claim 3 wherein said firm resilient material is foam rubber so as to provide strong and durable support for the weight of an infant.

5 5. The infant mattress of Claim 4 wherein said foam rubber includes a plurality of air passages, a number of said passages containing a height limiting ribbon, so as to limit vertical extent of said safety cradle in the event of overinflation.

6. The infant mattress of Claim 5 wherein the upper surface of said safety cradle is concavely shaped so as to present a concave lower supporting surface to said life cradle.

7. The infant mattress of Claim 1 wherein said pair of end sections and a portion of said central section include a plurality of baffles distributed throughout their interior regions, each of said baffles extending between an underside surface of a top surface layer of said sections and an upper side surface of a bottom surface layer of said sections so as to enclose an air volume in fluid communication with the air in said sections.

8. A method of safely and comfortably supporting a baby for sleep comprising:

(a) providing a multiple section inflatable mattress having first and second end sections with a central section affixed to and positioned therebetween;

(b) providing a life cradle area as an integral upper portion of said central section, said life cradle being variably air inflatable thereby providing an adjustably sized telescoping well for supporting a baby; and

(c) providing a safety cradle as an integral lower portion of said central section, said safety cradle affixed to said life cradle and being air inflatable, said safety cradle containing a foam rubber element thereby providing a safe baby supporting capability in the event of unwanted deflation of either of said cradles.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said telescoping well is elliptical in cross section with its semi-major axis oriented along a longitudinal mattress axis taken along a line passing serially through the mid regions of a first of said end sections and said central section then through a second of said end sections.

10. A multiple chambered mattress for promoting safe and healthy sleep for infants comprising:

(a) a pair of air inflatable end sections;

5 (b) a central section affixed to and positioned between said end sections, said central section having an upper life cradle affixed to and located above a lower safety cradle;

10 (c) said life cradle being separately air inflatable so as to provide a variably sized telescoping well for supporting an infant;

(d) said safety cradle being separately air inflatable and containing a firm resilient material element so as to support an infant in the event of unwanted cradle deflation;

15 (e) a longitudinal mattress axis oriented along a line passing serially through the mid regions of a first of said pair of end sections and through said central section and then through a second of said pair of end sections;

20 (f) said telescoping well is elliptical in horizontal cross section with its semi-major axis longitudinally oriented; and

25 (g) whereby upon controllably inflating said life cradle the volumetric size and the stiffness of said telescoping well may be adjustably controlled for infant support and comfort while encouraging and conditioning an infant to sleep on its back.